Steps to increase volume of trade with Myanmar

2578. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that due to geographical contiguity, Myanmar's trade with Thailand mostly passes through overland while sea routes are used for trading with rest of the BIMSTEC countries;

whether it is also a fact that India has only one land route of Myanmar in Manipur and the volume of business through this route is low due to lack of infrastructure facilities and insurgency; and

if answers to part (a) and (b) are in affirmative, what action Government propose to increase the volume of trade between these two countries by circumventing the difficulties faced in Manipur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

Moreh is the only land route to Myanmar in Manipur. Trade depends on a variety of factors including *inter-alia* infrastucture facilities, law and order situation, demand and supply of commodities etc.

Trade promotion is a continuous and ongoing efforts of the Government. Several initiatives including organizing buyer-seller meets, participation in international faire, business delegation etc. are undertaken to boost India's trade. Depending upon the demands of trade, initiatives are taken to improve infrastructure facilities to service the trade across land borders.

Assistance for setting up AEZs

2579 SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

whether assistance is extended for setting up Agricultural Economic Zones in various parts of the country;

if so, the objectives, the number and the amount spent thereon during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and product-wise;

whether Government of Karnataka has submitted a number of proposals for setting up AEZs in the State for potato, mango, grape's, lime, pomegranate, aromatic medicinal and dye plants etc;